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St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #56

JUNE 2017

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

"How'd it get to be June 1st, already?" Ruth asked me this morning, as she was reminding me that my *e-Traveler* article was due (actually, late). And I have to agree with her dismay. Time is just flying by us! Time is such a malleable thing: there are times in life that do seem so fleeting, and other times when time seems to drag along behind us, feeling like we are pulling a 160 pound dog along behind us on a walk he doesn't want to take.

On the first Sunday of June, we will be celebrating Pentecost, with our Together at 9:30 Eucharist, followed by a Vestry hosted breakfast. I can't help but wonder if these 50 days of Easter that end on Pentecost, beginning a new liturgical season for us, speed by so fast because we are in such an exultant frenzy about Jesus' resurrection. Now, I know that is not true for 99.9% of us. The fleeting nature of time has to do with: spring-fever, wedding season, graduation season, the end of school season, gardening and planting season, planning for summer activities, and just the joy that comes from warmer weather. My belief is that for those first apostles and disciples of Jesus, the time between Good Friday and Easter Sunday absolutely dragged for them, was interminable in duration. And that the time between Jesus' first appearance to them and his Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit just sped by at a frenetic pace: allowing Jesus to be gone from them before they had the real chance to understand what was going on in their lives.

As we enter summer, and cabin-lake-excursion-season, I urge all of us to "take time." Take time to: pray, pause and reflect, remember the blessings that imbue our lives in simple and yet manifest ways, enjoy quiet moments of peace, recharge our lives remembering the love God has for us is unceasing and ever present.

God's Blessings and Peace,



Meet Christ
Be Christ

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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stchristophers-mn.org

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Cindy Lee,
Jr. Warden
Ann DePaolis-Jones,
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Mark Brilowski
Darlene Cross
Jan Fillmore
Elizabeth Grayden
Karen Hartman
Chris Huntley
Becky Lucas
Mike Sirany
Barbara Swanson

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen,
Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary
Youth Director
Marion Hunner,
Children's Ministries
Karla S. Cole,
Director of Music
Rev. Mary Rowe,
Assisting Priest
Rev. Janet MacNally,
Deacon



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

Here we are once again at the beginning of the summer season. The season that seems to slow down in some respects and speed up in others. While the daily routine of school is gone from our family life, it has been replaced with camps and swimming and ball games and all manner of outside activity. And those of us past the age of those summertime activities watch the pace of our daily lives move by just as quickly. Summer, it seems, is a time to slow the pace of our "regular" schedules, so that we can pick up the pace in other areas.

Even the church seems to settle in during the summer months. We enter the season of Pentecost, whose main liturgical color is green. Not white for celebration, or purple for penitent thought, or even red for the Holy Spirit for whom the season is named, but rather a the calming presence of green. Even some of our brothers and sisters from a different denomination refer to this season as Ordinary Time. Nothing much going on in the summer, nothing much to get excited about, or to think you might miss out on if you are not here. Just calm and quiet, right?

All right, you knew that I wasn't going to let you go down that path, didn't you? In fact this is an arc all of seasons, each in their own way a particularly important and busy time. Let's start with those who refer to this as Ordinary Time. The word ordinary comes from the same root as the ordained, in other words in this particular definition ordinary means to be directed or ordered into or to do something. Far from being just a calm and green season, this is a season ordered by the Holy Spirit. We, in the Episcopal Church, recognized that fact in the 1979 BCP, when we renamed the season after the second most important feast day of the church year, Pentecost. Let's be honest: there was nothing calm and quiet about the arrival of the Holy Spirit as She entered into that locked upper room, and propelled the disciples out into the street and the world. It was one fabulous act of Holy Chaos. Their mission was not to sit back and take things easy; their command was to take the good news of God in Christ to the ends of the earth. The mission outward starts now, and the Holy Spirit is dancing in and around us to get a move on.

And there are multiple ways we can join in the Spirit's dance.

Our Giving Garden is up and growing as we tend to vegetables that enhance our local Keystone Food Shelf. Donated fresh vegetables are added to carts *after* they have been weighed for the weekly allotment; they are a nutritious gift to everyone's cart.

Our Community Dinner continues the last Thursday of each month; perhaps you might consider sharing a meal with our community.

And our work reaching out to our neighbors who are immigrants and/or refugees is also continuing, as we join in conversation with other faith communities in the Roseville area and the Roseville

Rev. John F. Dwyer,
Rector

Our SUMMER Schedule

(begins June 4!)

Sunday:

9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM

Fellowship

Wednesday:

12:15 PM

Holy Eucharist

-Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9 AM - 4 PM

Food Shelf Update



Please remember that "School's Out!" also means children are at home for three meals per day, seven days per week.

Thank you!
Pamela Case

Area School District to seek out ways for us to build relationships with our neighbors who have joined us from many different countries and cultures.

The Holy Spirit is indeed out ahead of us in our neighborhood, dancing and inviting us to join Her. It is all right from time to time during this wonderful summer season to take a break, breathe in all of God's Creation in full bloom, pause to recharge ourselves in the order and rhythm of the Eucharist; and then, fed, nourished and rested, we, like the disciples before us, move into the world to join the Spirit in Her dance for the life of the world.

Amen, Deacon Janet

Music Notes



Karla Cole,

Music Ministries Director

So Why Do We Hafta Sing So Much, or, The Hymns Have Too Many Verses Anyway

Why do we sing so much in church? The psalmist frequently exhorts us to sing a new song, make a joyful noise and sing praises as long as we live. "Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is seemly." (Psalm 147:1) In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul tells them not to do all sorts of things. But he does tell them to sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when they are together and to go on "singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart." (Ephesians 5:19) There's an African-American spiritual that says, "I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says, 'Sing,' and obey the Spirit of the Lord." For thousands of years, people have obeyed the Spirit and used their singing voices. The human voice is a very personal thing - your very own instrument. It may not be as beautiful as you would like it to be; but God doesn't care.

When you consider that the average hymn lasts about three minutes and you add some time for the liturgical music, we only sing about 12 to 15 minutes of our morning worship. When I was little, the singing was my favorite part. We didn't have clipboards or crayons in the pews and I was expected to sit still, lest my mother pinch my ear to *make* me sit still. So I could hardly wait for the grown-ups to get done with all of their talking and get down to the business of singing. I happily sang all the liturgy and hymns, learned by rote, at the top of my voice. I also attended parochial school and got a double dose of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs on the weekdays. By the time I'm in a nursing home and can't remember the names of my family members or what I had for lunch, I'll still be able to sing all the verses of some of those hymns.

And why is it, exactly, that we must sing all of those verses? In the days of the early church, gosh, even just twenty years ago, the worshippers' time was not so precious. Masses in the Middle Ages lasted several hours (standing because there were no pews) and some of the hymns we have from those days can be twenty or more stanzas in length. Post-1940 hymnal editors have carefully pared most of those down to four or five. The tradition of singing all the verses still remained in Protestant churches even if, after Vatican II in the 1960's, the Catholic church pretty much reduced

hymn singing to two verses per hymn. I have a friend who is a Catholic school principal and I occasionally sub for their school mass where the hymns are one verse, or maybe two if the priest isn't in or out yet. The music serves as a cover for the movement, which is totally antithetical to me.

The rubrics in the *Episcopal Church Musician's Handbook* suggest that all the verses be sung, but it does allow for choosing only those verses that are pertinent to the day's lessons. The difficulty arises when you consider that a hymn is really a work of poetry that has been set to music. Then the process of leaving out bits and snatches is a bit of a conundrum. The next time you get a chance, check out some of our hymns and just read through the texts. I do think you'll see the problem. Some of them are highly descriptive and make use of quite complex and thought-provoking prose. Each verse leads to the next in a logical and beautifully touching progression and I often think that removing verses would diminish the power of the hymn. Although I do remain conscious of the fact that all those verses may make the hymn seem like an eternity for highly-caffeinated and heavily-scheduled 21st century worshippers who don't love to sing.

As we approach the summer schedule, where we blend together those who love to sing with those who only tolerate the singing and also those who only sing three hymns a year at Easter, I guess something's gotta give. Last summer, we didn't sing the psalm, and people told me that they missed it. "Psalms are meant to be sung, you know!" But there were also complaints about "too much singing". What's a music director to do? Encourage tolerance. There will be singing - not enough for some of you and way too much for others. When we sing a hymn that you don't know or think you don't like, try just focusing on the text. Cast a blind eye to the masculine pronouns and lords and kings and such; and relish the beauty of the poetry and the sincerity of the expression that has been gifted to you from a fellow Christian of another era. Hymn-singing, is really just a form of organized meditation, only noisier.

Karla Cole



Footprints JUNE 2017



News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

Please join us for some summer
fun!

Family Fun at the Drive-In



We will make cars out of cardboard boxes and then sit in them (if we choose) while we watch the original Pixar movie, "Cars." **This opportunity is for families of all ages,**



shapes and sizes - feel free to bring your friends! All activities will be in the parish hall.

We will have chairs, but families are also

welcome to bring lawn chairs or blankets, pillows, etc to sit on the floor. There will also be snacks for everyone to enjoy. The date and time are still to be determined, so watch these sources for updates.

Open Facebook page

(<http://www.facebook.com/St.ChristophersRoseville>)

Weekly Sunday Christogram

(<http://www.stchristophers-mn.org/publications.html>)



Maker Fun Factory VBS:
Monday - Friday, July 17-21,
9am - noon

Pk - 5th grade

All are welcome!

At *Maker Fun Factory*, children discover that they are lovingly crafted by God. Like gears in a machine, every part of *Maker Fun Factory* works together to produce an experience that

connects kids with Jesus. Kids learn one important Bible Point each day, and it's reinforced through Bible Adventures, songs, snacks, and hands on explorations - all designed to show kids that they were created by God and built for a purpose. Registration Deadline is Sunday, July 2nd.

Pulse of the Parish

Good Morning. My name is (Mike Sirany/Darlene Cross) and I am on your Vestry. Today I am offering the Pulse of the Parish. The purpose of this brief update is to keep you informed of the actions taken by the Vestry at their meeting on Monday, May 15th.

- The Vestry had a vibrant discussion about Chapter 3 of the book, "The Agile Church: Spirit-led Innovation in an Uncertain Age," written by The Rev. Dwight Zscheile. ("Shyly")
- The monthly financial reports were reviewed. Our income from offerings and building use are ahead of budget projections. Expenses were above those budgeted due to quarterly payments for insurance, and water and sewer, resulting in our being in the red for the month. For the year we remain in the black, and overall, our cash flow is in good shape.
- The Vestry heard reports from individual vestry members who have taken on assignments stemming from Goals established by the vestry. Reports concerning the getting of bids for our sewer line repair, the need to increase volunteers, church growth and evangelism, the potential to increase revenue from facility rental, and planned giving development were presented.
- The Vestry finalized plans for our Pentecost brunch, following the Together at 9:30 Eucharist on Sunday, June 4th.
- The Vestry discussed a proposed resolution that urges the Roseville City Council to pass a separation ordinance emphasizing and clarifying the separate role of local law enforcement from federal immigration enforcement. St Christopher's is one of 14 faith communities in Roseville

considering this resolution. The resolution passed.

- The Vestry would like to recognize the following people in our "Shout-outs" for the work they have recently done for our parish:
 - All those that prepared and planted the Giving Garden.
 - All the people helping in cleaning up our flower gardens.
 - Those who organized our kitchen pantry: Cheryl Warkentien, Julie Shiek, Cynthia Verhey (and Bruce and Don, too).

Please be aware that the minutes of the May meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the Vestry's June meeting. I will be at coffee hour after the service. Please feel free to ask any Vestry member or me any questions you have about this meeting. Thank you for your attention.

Green Team

Recycling Wine Corks Through Recork

St. Christopher's is joining with the wine cork recycling group called Recork (www.recork.org) to reuse natural wine bottle cork material in shoes produced by the Canadian company SOLE (www.yoursole.com/ca). It is estimated that about 13 billion corks are produced each year world wide. Recycling some of these wine corks rather than harvesting virgin cork from forests or plantations, reduces the cork industries carbon foot print and stress on local environments. Recork operates its natural wine cork collection with minimal carbon footprint by using low priority excess UPS capacity to ship it to the SOLE factories to produce orthopedic footwear. Please join us in recycling your used wine corks. A Container basket will be placed in the Parish Hall.



We would like to invite everyone to participate in **Bike To Church Sunday June 11th**.

Also, everyone is invited to represent St. Christopher's in the **Roseville Parade on Monday, June 26th**. We will see you all there!

Joel Norton, Green Team

Plastic Bag Recycling

There are pictures on the 2 large bulletin boards in the upper and lower narthexes, which show the many people who are employed at Merrick, Inc. Merrick is a Day Training and Habilitation facility for persons who are Developmentally Disabled.

My son, Mike Mann is one of the crew pictured. He likes his job and he is good at it.

There was a celebration recently because they have processed 11,000,000 pounds of plastic! Just think if that had been in the landfills around the city!

Thank you to all who have been bringing their plastic to church. I hope that more will do so in the future.

--Stephanie Mann

JUNE Calendar Highlights

**3 1 PM-6 PM North Star Cello Recitals-Church, Courtyard,
Gathering Room**

4 PENTECOST--Together@9:30
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Brunch

6 Meals on Wheels-Offsite

7 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist-Chapel

9 6:30 PM Couples Bridge-Parish Hall

10 2 PM-4 PM Holmes Student Recital-Church, Parish Hall

11 TRINITY SUNDAY
9 AM Bike Blessing-North Entry
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship

12 5:30 PM Finance Committee-Parish Hall

14 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist -Chapel
7 PM Green Team-Parish Hall

15 2-9 PM Photo Day!-Chapel, Gathering Room

16 2-9 PM Photo Day!-Chapel, Gathering Room

17 10 AM-5 PM Photo Day!-Chapel, Gathering Room
2 PM-4 PM David Holmes Quartet-Church

18 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 Fellowship

19 6:45 PM Vestry-Parish Hall

21 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist-Chapel

25 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship
5:30 PM First Nations' Kitchen-Offsite

26 e-Traveler Deadline!
5:45 PM Meet up for ROSEVILLE PARADE

28 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist-Chapel

29 5:30 PM Community Dinner

Please note:

Outside group use of the building has not been listed here. Please note that we now have music lessons Monday through Saturday. Please check the calendar in the office before scheduling a meeting or event. Our weekly building-use calendar is **quite busy!**

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the June **e-Traveler**. It has been busy in the office these last few weeks, with unexpected slow-down spots turning up - like this one, when Lincoln decided to use my foot for a pillow again! He is very affectionate, and still is a terrific greeter of visitors to the office.



I hope you enjoy the Pentecost Brunch after the Together@9:30 service! Wear red, the color of the Holy Spirit!

Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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